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Parable Research Paper "Luke 14:31-33"

The Synoptic Gospels are an important part of understanding Jesus' teachings. It illustrates specific text accredited to direct words of Jesus himself. This gives us insight into the real persona of Jesus Christ. These books or accounts are filled with specific details of Jesus' life, and as a believer it is important to uncover the meanings behind these gospels. Many of his teachings include parables, a collection of stories with a moral lesson in particular to God. Parables are a very popular form of teaching in ancient times, as well as modern times. One of these parables is found in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 14 verses 31-33. The theme of this parable is not found too often in the bible. Throughout the study of this parable, the context in which it is spoken, the influences upon its theme, and the background behind it illustrates much more than the text implies. To be more specific, Luke 14:31-33 envelopes the cost of discipleship into a whole new level of devotion.

To begin speaking about the Gospel of Luke, is to know the reason why Luke wrote his account. To ask all the questions answering the purpose and intent he originally had in mind. Luke wanted to produce an orderly account about the things that had been fulfilled in his time with Jesus. The introduction of Luke begins with John the baptist, and Jesus. This is important as it brings to light the purpose of Jesus Christ. Jesus appears as the beloved son of God. Luke claims Jesus is the messianic king of Israel that will be God's blessing for all of humanity. The reader is presented with some unique features of the culture surrounding Luke's account. The

social implications highlighted by Luke are freedom of the poor, a journey with Jesus Christ, and the revelation of the good news not only for the Israelites. The main part of the book of Luke is centered around this journey to Jerusalem in which Jesus teaches his followers, including Luke himself. This brings us to Chapter 14, verses 31-33. Upon arrival to the new Jerusalem, Jesus is rejected, put on trial by the Jewish leaders, and crucified. Luke's account embodies Jesus' love, messages of hope, kindness and discipleship.

During Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, he comes to the home of a prominent pharisee. At this moment Jesus and his disciples share a meal on the sabbath according to Luke 14:1. It is at this setting that Jesus speaks the parable of the king going to war. The parable of Luke 14:31-33 depicts the cost of being a disciple, the complete cost of delegation for salvation. The parable states that a king that is going to war, will need to decide on a way to prepare for, and seek peace if he is in the face of defeat. By sending a messenger, will the king be able to have a mediator before the rival king's army comes for war. Jesus says that in this same way we need to give up everything and be ready to be his disciples. The context in which Jesus is speaking is in relation to the coming events upon the arrival to Jerusalem. Luke's testimony is all about conveying the messages which Jesus spoke. While sitting at this feast, Luke recounted all that Jesus is teaching regarding the parables in this chapter. It is important to note that the Pharisees had the tendency to decisively trick Jesus into answering the way they saw fit to dismiss his true identity as the son of God and messiah. Verse 2, and 7 give a slight insight into the behavior of the Pharisees at that moment. This would explain why Jesus Christ would be teaching in parables regarding concerns about these particular behaviors.

In verse 31, Jesus references a king going to war, this actually is relevant to Jewish leaders as their kings have a long history of war. It is something that is fairly common to

understand for Israelites. Verse 32 displays the way of thinking and strategizing for the Israelites. It was not a blind sided decision that would be made by the kings in the parables, in a similar attitude with the Jewish leaders regarding kings going to war. Now the Israelites had before them the messiah that was revealing these parables, and Luke understood these parables spoken by Jesus. Verse 33, ends the parable stating that without giving up everything, one cannot be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus's parable was depicting the sacrifice needed to be saved. This attitude is important to maintain for Luke as a dedicated disciple. Jesus was implying that the cost for following him would need to be everything. Although Jesus was alluding to his crucifixion in Jerusalem, Luke would also be very well aware of the cross they were carrying in their discipleship. Unlike many in the crowds following Jesus that would turn away from their dedication, Luke understood the ministry taking place.

The theme for this parable is based on the conclusion of the previous parables spoken to the pharisees. The wordplay in its greek language, shows the way freedom, and the poor are emphasized in Jesus' teachings. We already know the setting is in the Pharisees' house during a sabbath feast. The concluding text of verse 35 summarizes chapter 14 by stating that "those who have ears, hear." Luke's account is important, because he knows the seriousness of Jesus' situation. All the opposition he has been met with, and the warnings they are heeded to take, make Luke familiar with the context in which Jesus is speaking. The context in which Jesus is speaking directly correlates to the social, and political views of the Jewish leaders, and people. The time is important because the Israelites are awaiting for a new leader, and messiah that will take them into the new land and restore the people of Israel. During the feast, Jesus was watched carefully, constantly being observed as the Pharisees looked for a narrow path to subdue him. As

Jesus' parable confronts those that listen by showing them that they are facing an offer they cannot afford to lose, the Pharisees continue to remain silent in response to his teachings.

According to the commentaries of Diane G

Diane G. Chen. *Luke : A New Covenant Commentary*. Cascade Books, 2017.
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